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THE HEDGEHOG

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

ISSUE 50 IS COMING!

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IMPOSTER SYNDROME

STORY **IAN FLYNN**
ART **THOMAS ROTHLISBERGER & MAURO FONSECA**
COLORS **VALENTINA PINTO**
LETTERS **SHAWN LEE**
EDITORS **RILEY FARMER & DAVID MARIOTTE**

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STORY SO FAR

"...SURGE WILL REPLACE HIM, AND I WILL KEEP THE BRAVADO ON A LEASH."
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TOUCH ME? PATHETIC!

"THUS KITSUNAMI WAS MODELED AFTER SONIC'S MOST BENEFICIAL ALLY: TAILS."
Y-YES, MA'AM. THANK YOU, MA'AM.

WE WILL ENTER ON THE SOUTH END. I WILL INFILTRATE THE WESTERN CONTROL TOWER AND UPLOAD THE COMMAND PROGRAM.
SURGE, YOU'LL BE ESCORTING KITSUNAMI TO THE EASTERN COMMS TOWER TO ENSURE NO ALERTS ARE BROADCAST TO THE EGGNET.

THE VEIL HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY EYES. I WILL SUPPLANT THE DOCTOR AND PROVE MY METHODS SUPERIOR.
ONCE HE'S SEEN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS, I WILL WELCOME HIM BACK TO MY SIDE, AND WE CAN RULE THIS WORLD TOGETHER.

UH-HUH. I KNOW A LOT OF WHAT, BUT NOT A LOT OF WHY.
MY OWN THOUGHTS AREN'T ADDING UP. I KNOW THE DOC IS THE CENTER OF IT.

WHERE DO WE START?
STARLINE NEEDS TO HEAR HIMSELF TALK. WE FIND HIS RECORDS. WE FIND OUT WHAT HE DID TO US. AND THEN WE MAKE HIM HURT FOR IT.

DR. STARLINE
Theatrical Scientist.
Nefarious puppeteer.

SURGE THE TENREC
The Mean Green.
Roguish speedster.

KITSUNAMI "KIT" THE FENNEC
Sorrowful Sidekick.
High-flying hyrdromancer.

FILE: SON-1CO-25B

EGGMAN... DOCTOR EGGMAN... REJECTED ME. I WORKED... *SO HARD*... TO HELP HIM. AND HE... HE ROBS ME! HAS ME THROWN INTO THE WILDERNESS!*

*STH #25--EDS.

FILE: SON-1CO-25B

IF HE WON'T *ACCEPT* MY HELP, HE'LL BE *MADE* TO *SEE!*

SEE THIS FRAME I PROTOTYPED?! IT'S *REVOLUTIONARY!* I WAS GOING TO SHOW HIM THE CONCEPT, BUT NOW I'LL GIVE HIM A *LIVE DISPLAY!*

A-A-AND IT'LL RUN RINGS AROUND METAL SONIC! WHATEVER IT TURNS OUT TO BE...

FILE: SON-1CO-25B

NO SLOPPILY CONSTRUCTED BADNIKS! NO OVERSPECIALIZED VANITY PROJECTS! *YES! THAT MEANS YOU, METAL SONIC!*

BUT A VERSATILE, ROBUST, SUPERIOR CREATION!

FILE: B4D-GU7-04B

INTROSPECTION AND REVISION. TWO THINGS MY IDOL LACKS. TWO THINGS I MUST EMBRACE TO SURPASS HIM.

FILE: B4D-GU7-04B

MY TIME WITH ZAVOK AND THE OTHERS OPENED MY EYES.* MY INITIAL PLANS WERE SHORT-SIGHTED.

ALL THE POWER AND OBEDIENCE OF A MACHINE MEANS NOTHING IN THE CHAOTIC AND UNPREDICTABLE WORLD I'M TRYING TO CONTROL.

*STH: BAD GUYS #1-4--EDS.

FILE: B4D-GU7-04B

I NEED THE WILL AND INGENUITY OF A LIVING BEING. I NEED TO TAKE MY INITIAL DESIGNS AND FUSE THEM.

DR. EGGMAN HAS SPENT ALL THIS TIME INSERTING ANIMALS INTO HIS ROBOTS...

FILE: B4D-GU7-04B

...WHEN THE SOLUTION WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

SWEET GAIA BELOW, DOES THIS GUY EVER SHUT UP?

D-DO YOU WANT ME TO LOG OUT?

NO, YOU DID GOOD HACKING INTO STARLINE'S FILES. KEEP DIGGING. I WANT MORE DETAILS.

SEARCHING. HIS ARCHIVES ARE... EXTENSIVE.

BEING A MAD SCIENTIST WASN'T BAD ENOUGH. HE HAD TO BE A WANNABE INFLUENCER, TOO...

AT LEAST WE KNOW NOW HOW HE ENHANCED US. SHOULD WE REALLY BE GOING BEHIND HIS BACK LIKE THIS?

WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU. MORE DEETS. ***NOW***.

Y-YES MA'AM! I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING...

FILE: P05-757-H44

THE CYBERNETIC ENHANCEMENTS HAVE TAKEN. MY BASE MODELS ARE COMPLETE. NOW COMES THE *SPECIALIZATION*.

FILE: P05-757-H44

I HAVE ASSEMBLED ALL THE NECESSARY INGREDIENTS TO EMULATE THE BIOMECHANICAL MIRACLES OF MY ADVERSARIES AND INSTALL THEM INTO MY CYBERNETIC ENFORCERS.

FILE: P05-757-H44

EMULATED, BUT NOT REPLICATED. SUBJECT "KITSUNAMI" WILL NEED EXTERNAL SUPPORT. SUBJECT "SURGE" WILL NEED ELECTRO-MAGNETIC PROPULSION.

BUT I'M AIMING TO *IMPROVE* UPON THINGS, NOT MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO.

FILE: P05-757-H44

BUT THAT MUCH POWER *MUST* BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL. ONCE AGAIN, I LOOK TO DR. EGGMAN FOR INSPIRATION.

FILE: P05-757-H44

I ACQUIRED THE PROGRAMMING OF ONE OF HIS MORE... UNORTHODOX CONSTRUCTIONS.

WITH HER, I HAD THE MEANS OF FABRICATING A PERSONALITY. OR RATHER *OVERWRITING* EXISTING ONES.

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FILE: P05-757-H44

MY CREATIONS WILL THINK WHAT I WANT THEM TO THINK. WANT WHAT I DESIRE THEM TO WANT. BE WHO I WANT THEM TO *BE*.

AND AS A FAIL-SAFE, THEY'VE BEEN MADE ESPECIALLY PRONE TO MY HYPNOTIC GEAR. JUST IN CASE THEY NEED... REALIGNMENT.

SUBJECT: "SURGE."
SESSION 005.

YOU HATE SONIC. YOU WANT TO DESTROY SONIC.

I HATE SONIC. I WANT TO DESTROY SONIC.

SUBJECT: "KITSUNAMI."
SESSION 002.

YOU LIVE TO SUPPORT SURGE. YOU WILL DO ANYTHING FOR HER.

LIVE... FOR SURGE. DO. ANYTHING...

SUBJECT: "SURGE."
SESSION 058.

YOU HATE SONIC. YOU WANT TO DESTROY SONIC.

I HATE SONIC. I WANT TO *DESTROY* SONIC.

SUBJECT: "KITSUNAMI."
SESSION 015.

YOU LIVE TO SUPPORT SURGE. YOU WILL DO ANYTHING FOR HER.

I LIVE TO SUPPORT SURGE. I WILL DO ANYTHING FOR HER.

SUBJECT: "SURGE."
SESSION 232.

AND WHAT OF THE WORLD-RENOWNED HERO, SONIC?

PSSHT. I *HATE* THAT JERK. I'LL WIPE MY SHOES ON HIS GRAVE AFTER I PUT HIM IN IT.

SUBJECT: "KITSUNAMI."
SESSION 033.

AND WHAT OF YOUR PARTNER, SURGE?

I LOOK OUT FOR HER! NO MATTER WHAT! I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HER! WHERE IS SHE? CAN I SEE HER NOW?

FILE: PR3-IMP-SYM

=SIGH= SO. I HAD REPURPOSED THE RESILIENCE OF THE METAL VIRUS INTO SAFE CELLULAR UPGRADES TO SUPPLEMENT THE ENHANCEMENT CYBERNETICS.

SURGE AND KITSUNAMI ARE *EXCEEDINGLY* RESILIENT. *PHYSICALLY.* BUT...

...INSERT FILE FOOTAGE HERE...

TEST SESSION 003.

TEST SESSION 044.

TEST SESSION 105.

TEST SESSION 105.

I'M NOT RUNNING IT AGAIN! YOU WANT DATA?! YOU RUN IT!

TEST SESSION 337.

TEST SESSION 458.

TEST SESSION 529.

TEST SESSION 601.

SURGE IS STARTING HER RUN *RIGHT NOW*. WHAT ARE YOU DOING *HERE?*

I-I-I'M S-S-SORRY...

FILE: PR3-1MP-5YM

AN UNFORESEEN NECESSITY FOR THE HYPNOTIC VULNERABILITY HAS BEEN DEALING WITH THE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA.

I CAN'T ERASE THEIR MEMORIES ENTIRELY. THEY'RE *LEARNING*. *IMPROVING*.

SO WITH EACH REVIVAL, I MUST SUPPRESS AND EDIT. IT'S TEDIOUS, BUT THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

WHAT'S THE EXPRESSION? "NO PAIN, NO GAIN"? HOPEFULLY THEY'LL BE READY FOR FIELD-TESTING SOON.

OKAY. LOOK UP--

CAN WE PLEASE STOP? I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYMORE.

LOOK *UP* WHO WE WERE.

WHAT?

YOU HEARD HIM. WE'RE ***CYBORGS***. HE PUT STUFF IN US, BUT HE DIDN'T ***MAKE*** US.

SO WHO ***WERE*** WE? VOLUNTEERS? KIDNAPPED? HEROES? CONVICTS?! ***WHO WERE WE BEFORE THIS?!***

THERE'S... NO RECORD...

HE MAKES A VLOG OVER WHAT HE MADE FOR BREAKFAST! ***LOOK HARDER!***

I-I-I DID! IT'S N-N-NOT THERE!

WHY NOT?!

BECAUSE IT'S IRRELEVANT.

IT'S PAST YOUR BEDTIME, CHILDREN.

IT'S NOT "IRRELEVANT"! I NEED *CONTEXT!* IF I HAVE NO PAST, ALL I HAVE IS *THIS!*

AND "THIS" IS NOTHING! I'M NOBODY! I-I-I'M JUST A KNOCKOFF!

EVERYTHING I WANT--THAT I THINK I WANT-- IS A LIE!

OH, SURGE... WE KEEP HAVING THIS CONVERSATION...

...AND IT ALWAYS ENDS THE SAME WAY.

NO, NO, NO, NOT AGAIN!

KIT! GET HIM!

WHAM

AAAH!

BOOM

GOTTA PICK ONE FLAVOR OFF YOUR TRICORE AT A TIME, DOC! YOU WANT POWER?

OR SPEED?!

TOO BAD YOU BUILT ME FOR BOTH!

AUGH!

I'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH INTO YOU, BUT I WILL PUNISH YOU FURTHER IF NECESSARY.

...FIRST? YOU MADE ME HEAL REAL FAST. AND SECOND?

YOU FORGOT ABOUT KIT.

NO!

YOU MORON...

HOLD HIM.

SHUT. UP.

DON'T DO THIS! I'M THE *ONLY* ONE WHO KNOWS YOUR PASTS! THE *ONLY* ONE WHO CAN MAINTAIN YOUR ENHANCEMENTS!

I BUILT YOU FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE! WE WILL--

SO... NOW WHAT?

NOW? =SNIFF= NOW?!

WE BURN IT ALL DOWN! SONIC! EGGMAN! EVERY IDIOT THAT FOLLOWS EITHER OF THEM!

WE END IT ALL! NO MORE HEROES! VILLAINS! *NOTHING!*

IF WE DON'T GET A PAST, THEY DON'T GET A FUTURE!

OKAY.

HOW?

DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE. MAYBE I'LL START WEARING OFF THE TREADS ON HIS BRAIN?

I WON'T STOP YOU. MAY I OFFER AN IDEA FIRST?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE SMART ONE. LET'S HEAR IT.

STARLINE WAS ALREADY PLANNING TO BRING EVERYONE TOGETHER.

WE COULD USE HIS PLAN, UP TO A POINT, THEN TAKE IT IN OUR OWN DIRECTION. DESTROY SONIC AND TAILS, AS PLANNED, AND GO ON TO DESTROY THE DOCTORS, TOO.

I-IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU, MA'AM.

I CAN WORK WITH THAT.

LET THE DOC GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE JUST TO SET HIMSELF UP FOR THE FALL?

WHUTWUZAYE... WHERE AM...

WHAT...

YOU FINALLY AWAKE, DOC? PRETTY SAD YOU PUT YOURSELF TO SLEEP WITH YOUR OWN MONOLOGUE.

MY OWN...

YOU WERE FILLING US IN ON THE DETAILS ON HOW YOU MADE US. "PRE-MISSION PREP" OR SOME NONSENSE. I WASN'T PAYING FULL ATTENTION.

I DID?

SURE DID.

AND YOU'RE... FINE WITH THIS?

WELL, IF I WASN'T BEFORE, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WIPED THAT OUTTA MY BRAIN.

YOU MADE US POWERHOUSES. WHO AM I TO COMPLAIN?

ALL I HAVE TO DO TO GET A LIFETIME OF HERO WORSHIP IS DUST SOME EGO-DRIVEN JERK, RIGHT?

EASY SELL.

KIT'S COOL WITH IT, TOO. RIGHT, KID?

YES, MA'AM.

HE IS BECAUSE I SAY HE IS.

YES, MA'AM.

HA! WELL THEN... GOOD. I'M GLAD WE'RE PAST THAT MILESTONE.

I REALLY OUGHT TO STICK TO MY SCHEDULE IF I'M WORKING MYSELF TO EXHAUSTION LIKE THAT, THOUGH...

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE BORING STUFF OUT OF THE WAY, WHAT'S THE PLAN, BOSS?

WELL... WHY NOT? I SEEM TO HAVE CAUGHT A SECOND WIND. I'LL BE BRIEF, THOUGH. I DON'T WANT THIS HEADACHE TO ESCALATE.

AS THE RESTORATION FOCUSED ON REBUILDING, SO, TOO, DID DR. EGGMAN. WE'LL BE INVADING HIS NEW CAPITAL CITY, WHICH IS WHERE I'LL UPLOAD MY OVERRIDE PROGRAM.

SCRAMBLE THE EGGMAN WITH HIS OWN BOTS. LOVE IT!

NO. WE ARE TO PACIFY DR. EGGMAN. SONIC AND TAILS ARE OUR ONLY TERMINAL TARGETS.

MY BAD.

OUR ACTIVITIES THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GRAB THE ATTENTION OF THE HEROES AND LURE THEM IN.

THE BADNIKS WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR ANCILLARY SUPPORT, FREEING YOU TWO UP TO FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WERE MADE FOR.

ONCE YOU'VE SEPARATED AND CORNERED YOUR TARGETS, YOU WILL STRIKE WITH ALL YOUR FEROCITY AND WITH ZERO REMORSE...

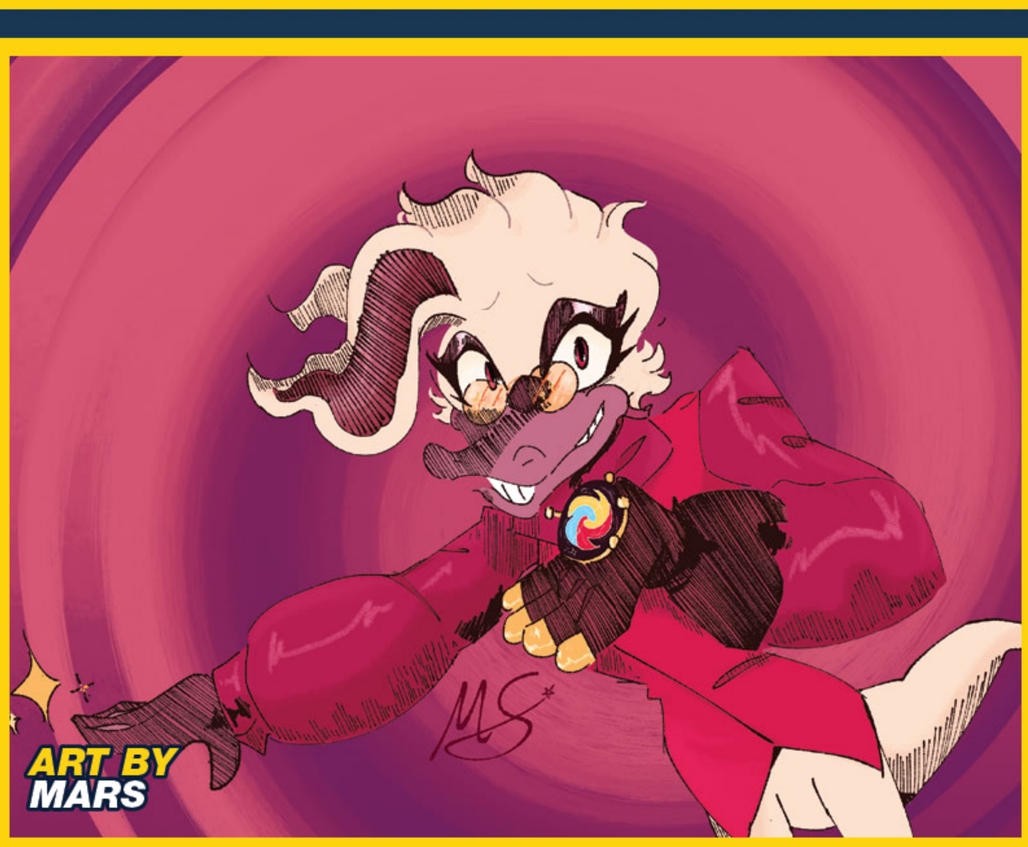
NEXT TIME:
INVADING THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!

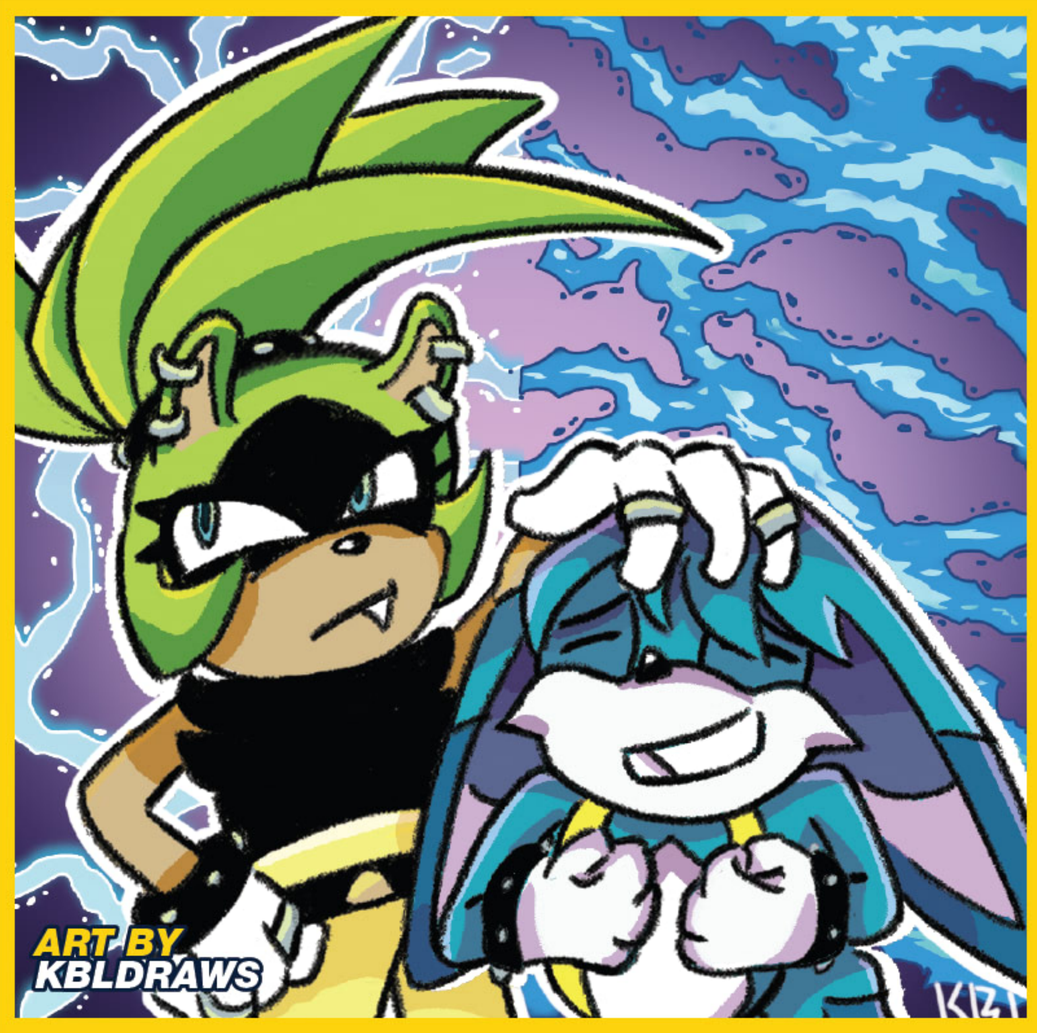
NEXT MONTH

SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello, Imposters! Does anyone else think Surge is losing it a bit? Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Thomas Rothlisberger, Mauro Fonseca, Valentina Pinto, and Shawn Lee for Imposter Syndrome *#3! Our inbox has been flooded with* Imposter Syndrome *art, so check out some below!*

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them, "OKAY TO PRINT"! And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, pick up Sonic The Hedgehog *#49 to see Starline's plan go into action!*

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ERICA

ART BY
AIDENEYE

ART BY
PURPLETERROR91
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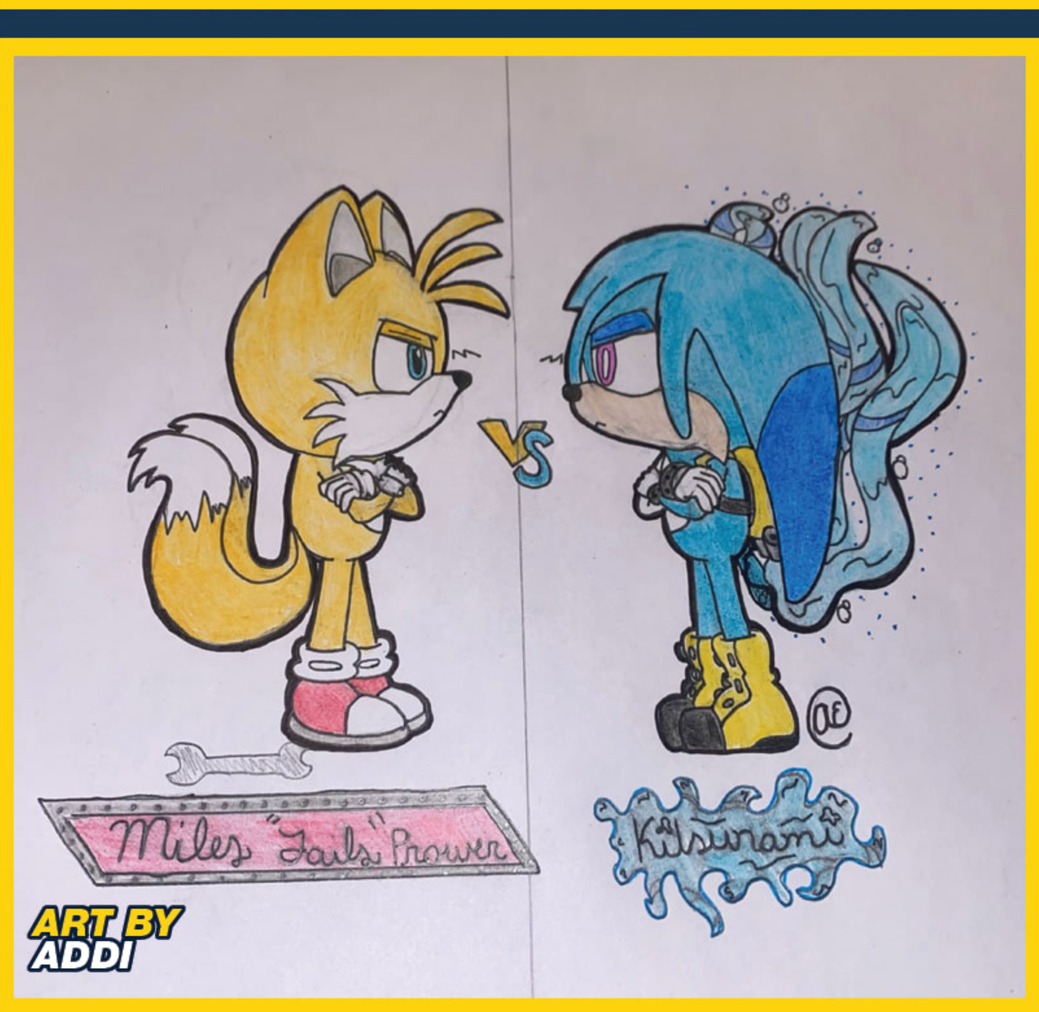
Surge
Kitsunami
ART BY
LR


Miles "Tails" Prower
VS
Kitsunami
ART BY
ADDI

ART MAURO FONSECA COLORS JOANA LAFUENTE

ART BRACARDI CURRY

ART AARON HAMMERSTROM COLORS PRISCILLA TRAMONTANO

ON YOUR MARKS. GET SET. GO!

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THE EXCLUSIVE PRE-QUILL TO 2022's MOST ANTICIPATED FILM!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2

LIFE IS GOOD IN GREEN HILLS... BUT MAYBE *TOO* GOOD. SONIC'S GROWING BORED, AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THINGS BECOME A LOT LESS BORING FOR EVERYONE ELSE — *FAST!*

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 2: THE OFFICIAL MOVIE PRE-QUILL

KIEL PHEGLEY · ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
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